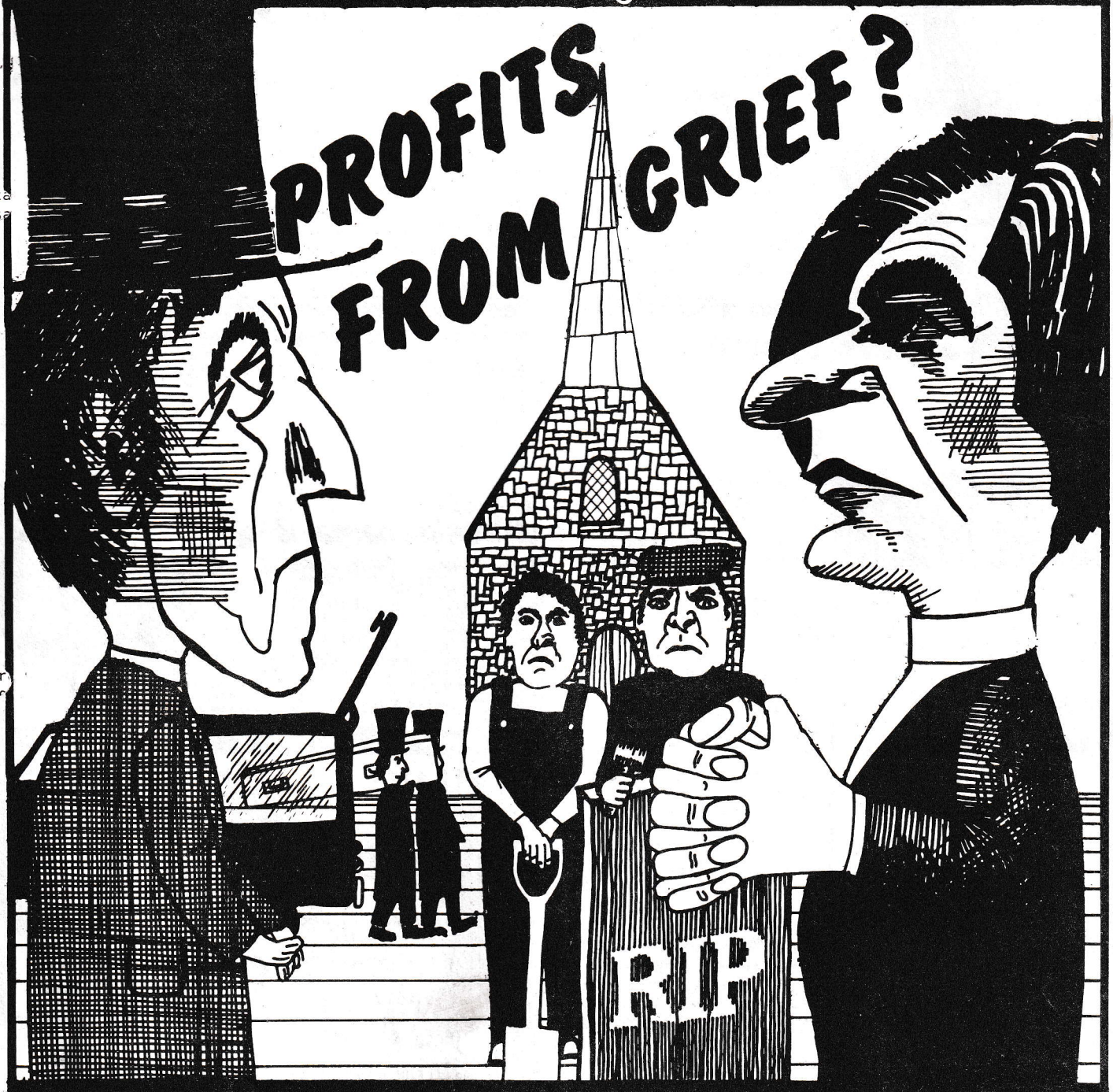
Tameside Feb.'81 No.19 15p

EYE

covering Droylsden
Longdendale Denton
Ashton Dukinfield
Stalybridge Mossley
Hyde & Audenshaw



The local DEATH BUSINESS

plus

SOCCER BARONS

The EYE

PO Box 30
HYDE
Cheshire
SK14 3JL

TELEPHONE:
455 3724
or
366 0382
after six

NEXT ISSUE:
EYE 20 out on Feb.14th
Copy to us by Feb.4th

EYE NEEDS EARS: *send us your news*

EYE NEEDS NOSES: *sniff out the stories*

EYE NEEDS HANDS: *come and help us with layout and distribution*

WE NEVER REVEAL OUR SOURCES

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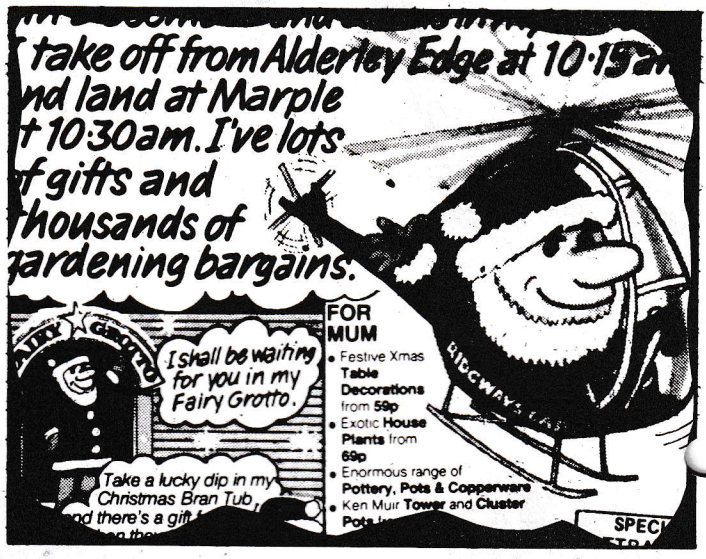
20% off for SIX inserts

CHRISTMAS ON TICK

Who says religion and business dont mix.
H.T. GREENWOOD (M/CR) LTD. A firm of local money - lenders with offices at 315 STAMFORD ST. ASHTON mix the two very profitably.
Just before Christmas GREENWOODS put out an ad on Piccadilly Radio exhorting people to borrow money off them ' for Christmas'
And Christmas isnt the only religious festival which provides 'financial consultants' with customers.
GREENWOODS are reported to have a nice little number lending money to hard-up local Roman Catholics to buy Whitsun clothes for their children. They got a lump sum from GREENWOOD for the Whitsun period and spent the rest of the year paying it back plus interest.
This, and other 'Financial services' to customers gave GREENWOODS a pre tax profit of £292,799 in 1979. Which was nice for NEVILLE THOMAS ARDERN GREENWOOD J.P. of 15 MOTTRAM OLD RD STALYBRIDGE who when he's not passing judgement at the Magistrates Courts is the top moneylender at GREENWOODS with 250,846 shares in the group holding company the PROVIDENT FINANCIAL GROUP
Directors include R.T. CUMMINGS of 31 PALINWOOD RD. DELPH who resigned on 1st Jan 1979 and current Company Secretary KATE HARRISON of 65 GREEN LANE ASHTON.
These, and GREENWOOD's six other directors did not take any salaries or dividends from the co. in 1979. Instead they paid out no less than £1,009,675 in "Management charges."□

Council house blues

After waiting for years PAT & JACK SLATER were pleased when they finally moved into their new Tameside council house on Mary St., Dukinfield last May.
But the shortcomings of their new home soon became obvious. Water leaked through the main roof into the attic, ruining their daughter's belongings which'were stored there. Water poured in (they had to use a dustbin to collect it) through the porch roof tacked onto the side of the house. PARTINGTONs, the Chadderton - based buiders, are responsible for this shoddy workmanship. They are still under contract on the site, so they have to do repairs, rather than Tameside. But, as they have been paying rent since last May, the SLATERs are wondering why Building Service refused to attend to an overflowing blocked up drain which flooded the toilet.
Councillors GEORGE NEWTON and GEORGE HATTON have so far been 'too busy' to call round and see for themselves.


take off from Alderley Edge at 10·15a
nd land at Marple
t 10·30am. I've lots
f gifts and
housands of
ardening bargains.
I shall be waiting for you in my Fairy Grotto.
Take a lucky dip in my Christmas Bran Tub
FOR MUM
• Festive Xmas Table Decorations from 59p
• Exotic House Plants from 69p
• Enormous range of Pottery, Pots & Copperware
• Ken Muir Tower and Cluster
RIDGWAYS

LEON'S CHOPPER

Last time's Pet of the Month LEON HOWARD, Director of WARMCO LTD. Mossley and crasher of helicopters has international links.
He was to be found playing Reindeer to RIDGWAYS GARDEN CENTRES (Marple) FATHER CHRISTMAS:
For it was LEON who piloted the helicopter that took Mr. XMAS to his fairy grotto in RIDGWAYS this Yuletide.
(Avid chopper spotters also saw LEON's machine parked on the tarmac outside QUAFFERS CLUB in Bredbury on New Year's Eve)
HELICO LTD. LEONs copter firm, are doing plenty of ads for a company without planning permission.
They are in the latest yellow pages directory offering 'sales, maintenance, training' etc. at their Mossley base.□

FAREWELL

On Monday 5th January 1981 WASEEL died of cancer in St. Ann's Hospice, Stockport. WASEEL, who came from Dukinfield, will be sadly missed on the EYE.

Cartoon drawer extraordinary, WASEEL made a lively contribution to the paper. His untimely death was most tragic.

Shorts

MOTTRAM POLICE STATION has been turned into a jailhouse. The Prison Officers Association dispute has left the prisons system clogged up and as a result people who have been refused bail end up in MOTTRAM POLICE STATION.
EYE knows of at least one instance where someone has been there since a week before Christmas.
Solicitor PETER PLUCK HYDE's own PERRY MASON was seen visiting a client there over Christmas - taking in the turkey sandwiches.□

Council boss axes own job

Stafford borough council has agreed to make 54-year-old chief executive Derek Almond redundant—on his own recommendation to a special cost cutting committee. Mr Almond headed a[t] of officers that

This old EVENING NEWS cliping fell out of a heap of back-filing in the EYE office the other day.
We thought it was relevant, especially since Tameside are looking for big savings out of voluntary redundancies this coming year.
Can we look forward to the time, sometime soon, when our very own Chief Executive DAVID SPEARS recommends that HIS £15,000 a year job be cut, in the interests of economy ?□

TAMESIDE has the best and cheapest school meals in the country, according to a survey just put out by the National Union of Public Employees.
NUPE's claim coincides with the surprising fact that there has been no drop in take-up of school meals this year, unlike in other areas of the country where meals services are collapsing. To boost parents confidence in our local school fodder, EDUCATION CHAIRMAN GLYN FORD has issued vouchers offering 35pence school meals to parents on specific days at LONGDENDALE HIGH SCHOOL, a relatively new school. Teachers at older ex - secondary mods are wondering why the voucher offer hasn't applied to their place.

You've got a much better chance of getting Legal Aid (Govt. help with legal costs) with Sth.Tameside Magistrates Courts than with Ashton Courts. The Ashton Courts refuse about 15% pf all applications for legal aid, whilst in Sth.Tameside the figure is 3½%. This large discrepancy was revealed by figures published in the Annual Report of the Greater Manchester Legal Services Committee. On top of this it seems solicitors only make applications for Legal Aid on about 35% of cases. The moral seems to be: make sure you get caught in Sth. Tameside; Make sure your solicitor applies for legal aid.□

Rothwells

Auctioneers - Valuers - Estate Agents

Stalybridge, Millbrook Village

Lord of the Manors

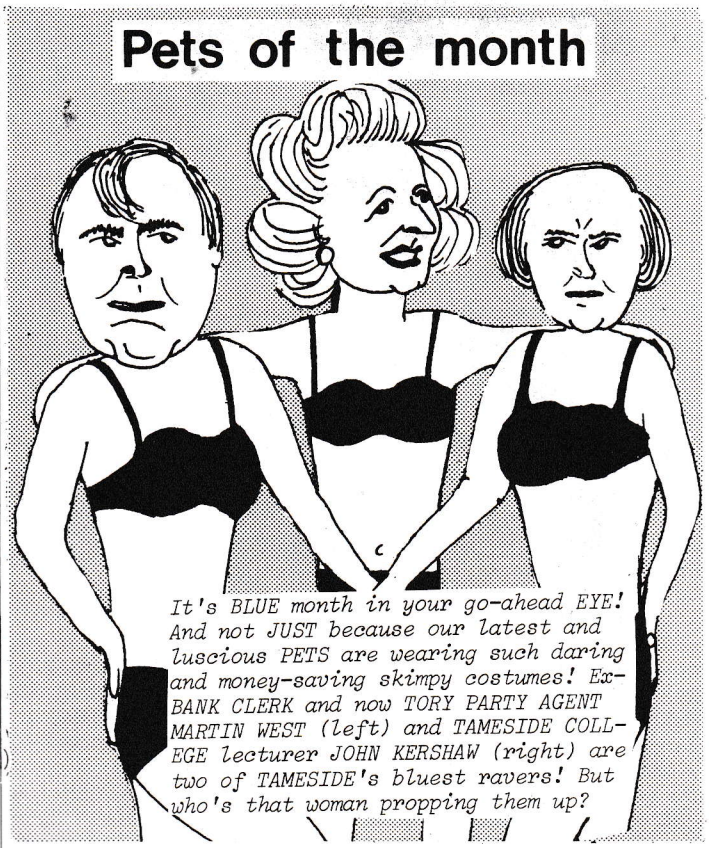
Impressive stone built Detached residence in private parkland setting, offering an ideal opportunity to purchasers wishing to live in sheer luxury, perhaps two families together. The accommodation is delightful and extremely well appointed with quality fitments throughout and briefly comprising: Porch, grand reception hall, study, massive lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, cloaks, wine cellar, four double bedrooms, boxroom, spacious bathroom, separate w.c./wash basin. Full central heating and double glazing. Gardens extending to one acre plus paddock.

Price £80,000

Brochure and viewing o[n]

In this time of mass unemployment and wage rises that don't keep pace with inflation its nice to know that some people can afford the kind of sheer luxury this "Des. Res" in MILLBROOK offers, mod cons include a 'Grand Reception Hall' a 'wine cellar' and an acre of ground plus a paddock for a horsy.
Do YOU want to 'live in sheer luxury?'
Yes? Pop along to ERIC ROTHWELLS shop in Market St. Stalybridge with a wheelbarrow full of £80,000 in smackaroos and its all yours!
But don't blame us if its gone when you get there.□

Pets of the month



It's BLUE month in your go-ahead EYE! And not JUST because our latest and luscious PETS are wearing such daring and money-saving skimpy costumes! Ex-BANK CLERK and now TORY PARTY AGENT MARTIN WEST (left) and TAMESIDE COLLEGE lecturer JOHN KERSHAW (right) are two of TAMESIDE's bluest ravers! But who's that woman propping them up?

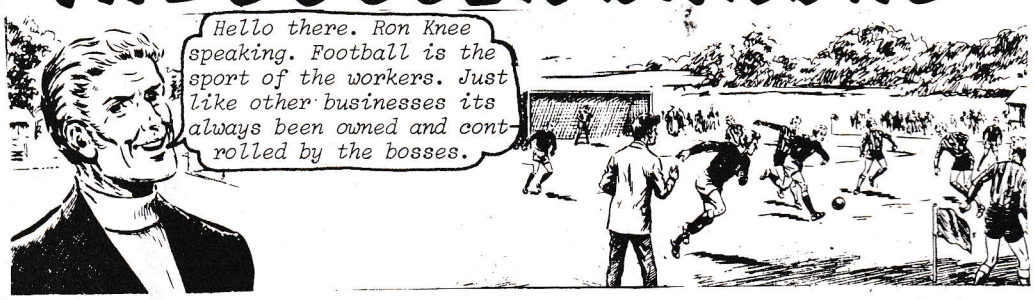
RICHARD MARTIN ELLIS WEST and JOHN KERSHAW got together with MARGARET T. in Tameside at the last general election. For Mr. WEST was Mr. KERSHAW's election agent: it did not do any of them much good, for KERSHAW lost(to TOM PENDRY M.P.)the Hyde and Stalybridge constituency.
But this was not MARTIN WEST's first electoral disaster for local Conservatives. Ex-Bank Official MARTIN put up as Tory candidate in a recent Greater Manchester Council bye-election in Hattersley...and lost.
But his mate JOHN KERSHAW is already on the GMC, where he practices wiping out subversives with the Chief Constable JAMES ANDERTON on the Police Committee.
MARTIN WEST who is now Tory Agent for Hyde and Stalybridge was one of the dis-organisers of Stalybridge Festival, when large amounts of ale went unaccounted for and print bills were unpaid.
If his firm HYLOCREST, which he set up in 1970 with JOAN DAWSON (whose husband PHILIP was a PET recently),had ever traded he might have been able to pay the bills himself.

For his part, KERSHAW has been involved in the Arts as well: he used his role on the Executive of the North West Arts Association to attack local theatre group - NORTH WEST SPANNER - for its politics, thus threatening their grants.
At the COLLEGE he is a representative of NATFHE - the Lecturers' Union - but his inactivity and extreme right-wing views mean he is not likely to remain a Rep. much longer.

Open Your EYE Each Month

EYE now out regularly every month - see Page Two for all the details.

THE SOCCER BARONS


Hello there. Ron Knee speaking. Football is the sport of the workers. Just like other businesses its always been owned and controlled by the bosses.

AND THATS AS TRUE OF SMALL LOCAL CLUBS LIKE ASHTON UNITED AND STALYBRIDGE CELTIC AS IT IS OF BIG NATIONAL ONES LIKE MANCHESTER UNITED OR CITY.....

There are several score small shareholders in STALYBRIDGE CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB, the company that owns and runs the club from its BOWER FOLD ground just off MOTTRAM RD.

Most of them are local Stalybridge people who bought a share or two in their local team donkey's years ago and take little active part in running the company.

CHARLIE MEREDITH the Labour councillor and ex-mayor of Tameside is one.

There are even some of the dozen or so people left who lent the club money to set up the company back in 1934. But since the early '70's the controlling interest in Stalybridge Celtic Ltd- amounting to some 4,000 shares- has been owned by a big local property company by the name of PRENWAIN LTD.

Since PRENWAIN moved in two of the top PRENWAIN directors JOSEPH KNOTT of BUCKTON GRANGE, CARRBROOK and his son DAVID JOSEPH KNOTT of ALDERLEY EDGE have always sat on the Celtic Board.

The take-over of CELTIC was just one of PRENWAINs operations in Stalybridge.

They included developments in Carrbrook and posh residential estates at the top of MOTTRAM ROAD.

Their fellow Directors at CELTIC include HOWARD BURGESS of 90 COTE GREEN a Chartered Accountant, ANTHONY BUCKLEY of 11 STALEY RD. MOSSLEY a 'Works Manager', LEWIS McDONALD A 'Metal Merchant' of 17 HOLLY GR. STALYBRIDGE.

The pattern of ownership at ASHTON UNITED is much the same.

The club was turned into a company on 4th Jan 1978.

The Board Members are all Company Directors ranging from ROY & SHEILA DONNELLY who live in Heaton Moor to motor salesman PAUL RICHMOND of MOTTRAM OLD RD. HYDE.

Fellow Director SHOLTO runs Ethnic Clothes Ltd. and KEITH ABSOLOM is the owner and proprietor of Ashton's only 'posh' hotel, YORK HOUSE on RICHMOND ST.

ANTI TANKS

In early November, the ADVERTISER carried a harmless photo showing an 11 year-old child "playing" with an 84 mm. anti-tank gun.

It was part of one of the regular recruiting displays that are put up by one of the Armed Forces in market places all over the Borough.

But this photo has made a few Tameside teachers and parents wonder whether the Council should be encouraging OR allowing the Army to display their propaganda on Council property at all.

In SHEFFIELD, the ruling Labour Council have banned the armed forces from any street recruitment. And in BRENT (LONDON), the local Teachers' Association has voted not to cooperate with Forces school events. And it is worth noting that it has been reported that an investigation is being conducted into allegations of infiltration of the Territorial Army by extreme right wing and racist groups, who intend using their training for their own purposes.

SELLARS SELL OUT

Local builder ROLAND BARDSLEY will be pleased at a recent Greater Manchester Council decision to landscape land between Hattersley and Mottram Green, site of some new BARDSLEY homes.

Housing Manager ALAN SELLARS revealed this plan at a recent meeting of HATTERSLEY ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOC.

People with long memories can distinctly remember the ever-smiling 'promise-them-the-earth' style of ALAN SELLARS when he first arrived at Hattersley Rents Office. This landscaping was originally promised by ALAN for the Hattersley Valleys. No doubt County Councillor JOHN KERSHAW, having experienced the lack of Tory votes on Hattersley when he put up against TOM PENDRY for M.P. has had the landscaping moved nearer private homes. GMC elections are this May.

MOSSLEY MASONS

CONTINUING OUR OCCASIONAL SERIES ON LOCAL FREE - MASONS.

Our Masonic contacts tell us that if you want to join the FREEMASONS the place to go is MOSSLEY.

Unlike some of the STALYBRIDGE and HYDE lodges they don't have so much cash up in MOSSLEY so they can't afford to be snooty about who they're prepared to shake hands secretly with.

BUT REMEBER!

If you DO have a hankering after monthly mumbo-jumbo and lots of free booze and food, don't wait to be asked to join.

Budding FREEMASONS have to ask a FREEMASON to nominate them and then another FREEMASON has to second it.

Which means you have to know TWO Freemasons before you can be one yourself. Which is pretty difficult since most Masons are pretty secretive about it.

So.....as a special service to would-be MOSSLEY masons here are the names and addressed and telephone numbers of the top local brothers who meet every month at THE FREEMASONS HALLL, WESTHOLME, on Stockport Rd. MOSSLEY.

ALAN HEAP, a finishing Manager, of 58 Staley Rd Mossley. Tel Mossley 2976

HENRY FIELDING, Retired Fire Officer, 172 Stockport Rd. Mossley. Tel. Mossley 3147

ADAM P. JOHNSTON, Engineer. 6 Richmond Close Micklehurst. Tel.Moss.2831

GEORGE PICKFORD, Coal Merchant, 85 Spring Lane Lees. Tel. 624 2649

CLIFFORD H. TARR Retired Co. Dir. 'Chellow Dene" Waterton Lane, Mossley. Tel. Moss. 2239

RICHARD BLUNDELL a retired Railway Official. 48 Highfield Dr. Mossley Tel. Moss. 2642

ROBERT C. WRIGHT a Chartered Accojntant 10 Early Bank, Stalybridge. Tel. 338 2176

EDWARD G. BRIGGS. Ret. Bank Manager, 11 Beechfield Grasscroft, Saddleworth. Tel. S/Worth. 3422.

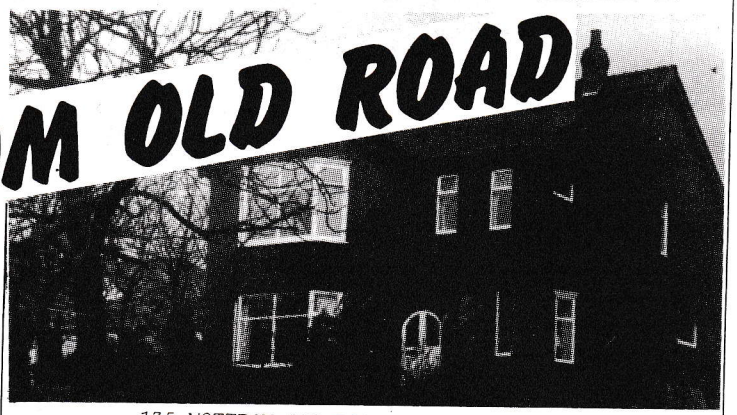
WHY NOT GIVE THEM A RING ?

NEW

THE SEARCH FOR TAMESIDE'S POSHEST STREET

EVERY SO OFTEN IN THE MONTHS TO COME EYE WILL BE FOCUSSING ON THE INHABITANTS OF OUR RITZIER ROADS, GROVES AND AVENUES, TO SEE WHICH ONE BEST DESERVES OUR "GOLDEN GHETTO" AWARD FOR BEING TAMESIDE'S POSHEST STREET.

NO. 1 ~ MOTTRAM OLD ROAD



135 MOTTRAM OLD ROAD, HOME OF BEVAN WINSTON BROADBENT, RUBBER ACCOUNTANT.

MOTTRAM OLD RD. STALYBRIDGE tends to get overshadowed by its flashy off-spring, MOTTRAM RD. where most of the houses look like you once tried to win them off the back of a cornflake packet. But, when we looked more closely at both streets we found that whilst MOTTRAM RD. probably has the edge in the filthy-rich stakes, MOTTRAM OLD RD. was way ahead when it came to poshness and power.

Out of a random sample from 20 or so houses, MOTTRAM OLD RD. threw up no fewer than 10 company directors, 5 property developers, 6 magistrates, 2 Labour councillors (!) 2 top local Freemasons and assortment of solicitors, chartered accountants and such-like, nearly ALL of whom had business or financial connections with each other.
Lets start with the ARDERNS, MICHAEL and MARJORIE at 62 MOTTRAM OLD RD.

They own shares in a small property investment company called TAMESIDE PROPERTIES LTD.
Which is something they have in common with their ex-neighbour J.P. STANSFIELD who used to live at 43 MOTTRAM OLD RD. and is now reported to be 'slumming' it in Romiley.

J.P. STANSFIELD was not only a Director of TAMESIDE PROPERTIES, GIBSONS SPORTS SHOP In Ashton & the REPORTER group of newspapers, but also on the Board of the ASHTON STAMFORD BUILDING SOC. which has assets of over £2.5 m. and, funnily enough, supplies TAMESIDE PROPERTIES with all its mortgages.

Associates of the ASHTON STAMFORD form a ghetto within a ghetto on MOTTRAM OLD RD. The Societys solicitor RUPERT D.WOOD lives at 94 MOTTRAM OLD RD. and its former Chief Executive RONALD CORDINGLEY lives at 164 with his wife MARIAN.
RONALD, who runs a firm of Ashton Chartered Surveyors with his son DAVID the Ashton JP, brings us to the end of the ASHTON STAMFORD trail and onto the track of the local Freemasons. Because until 1972 Worshipful Brother RONALD ran the Ashton Masonic Hall with

10 Company directors! 5 Property developers! 6 J.P.'s, and more!

current top Mason Worshipful Brother ROLAND CLEGG who lives just off MOTTRAM OLD RD.

ROLAND CLEGG who makes his money as a director of CARR CLEGG & SONS the £1m. clothing firm based at CLARENCE MILL in Staly bridge- is helped out at the Masonic Hall meetings by Worshipful Brother FRANK FITTON Snr. who doesn't live on MOTTRAM OLD RD. He lives at 222 MOTTRAM RD! But his son and business partner FRANK JNR. does live on MOTTRAM OLD RD. at 63 with his wife ELIZABETH and his sons JOHN and RICHARD who are all share holders in the family firm of BARKER AND ASHWORTH which seems to exist simply in order to collect rent from CLARENCE MILL IN ASHTON.
Another MOTTRAM OLD RD. dweller accountant BEVAN WINSTON BROADBENT of No. 135 does the accounts for the BERWIN RUBBER CO. which is owned by Worshipful Brother ROBERT SWINDELLS JP who is yet another Grand Officer at the Ashton Masonic Hall, with BEVANS neighbours RONALD CORDINGLEY and FRANK FITTON.
BEVAN WINSTON BROADBENT is a partner in E. BROADBENT FISH AND CO. the Chartered Accountants who also do the books for TAMESIDE PROPERTIES LTD. which is where we started.
But,
Just in case MOTTRAM OLD RD.'s worthyness for the GOLDEN GHETTO award is still in doubt here's some more of the residents.....
There's MICHAEL JOHN WOOD of 136 MOTTRAM OLD RD. who sits as company secretary and director on the Board of umpteen local businesses. He's the company secretary of HADOVER LTD. the property firm run by FRANCIS PAUL HIGTON JP who is a long time associate of PHILIP DAWSON the Estate agent and DEREK HARTLE the bankrupt machine tool millionaire who used to live at HEAPS FARM just off MOTTRAM OLD RD. and now lives at MOTTRAM OLD HALL at the top of MOTTRAM OLD RD.

FRANK HIGTON, MICHAEL WOOD and his wife LYNN are also directors of HARTLES management Co DEREK HARTLE SERVICES LTD

Who else?
There's solicitor and Labour councillor JACK THORNLEY at 128 MOTTRAM OLD RD.whose fellow Labour man JOHN NEIL HOWARD manages to be a councillor for Droylsden whilst apparently living at 4 ROOKERY CLOSE, at the top of MOTTRAM RD.

There's ANTHONY TOWNEND the Director of Finance for Tameside and a prominent Ashton Rotarian.
There's JOHN KEITH EDWARDS of 3 MOTTRAM OLD RD. who is a director of the property co. TIGE HOLDINGS LTD.

We could go on. But you have probably got the picture.
STAR-RATING for POSHNESS AND POWER * * * * *□

cost?

...tery. But for the ... to advertise their ... in the yellow ... ads in the Reporter ... just another

We wanted the mourners collected from home and taken behind the hearse in a single limousine.
We wanted bearers and a vicar to officiate at a simple service in the DUKINFIELD cemetary chapel.

KENWORTHYS of 170 OLD ST ASHTON quoted us £350 but that included a meal.
When we said we didn't have much money they offered to do us a £250 funeral which would have meant cremation instead of a burial, no meal and no limousine.
We then took our custom along to ROBINSONS who are based at 230 MARKET ST. HYDE.
Their man was very helpful. The full scale funeral would cost £300. But when we quibbled he suggested that we 'come and talk about it' because he was 'prepared to do it for less.'

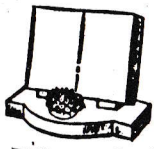
BENJAMIN ARMITAGE (HYDE) LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
CREMATIONS ARRANGED
[redacted] STOCKPORT ROAD
GEE CROSS, HYDE
Tel. [redacted]
CHAPEL OF REST
DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE

THE DEATH BUSINESS

NEXT STOP WAS A STONE MASONS.....

There are five Monumental Masons listed for TAMESIDE in the yellow pages. We rung two, and found them refreshingly free of fake sympathy.
HODCROFTS of ASTLEY ST. DUKINFIELD said they could 'do'us a small marble 'headstone'for £200 and throw in an inscription free.
A 'small granite' came a bit more expensive at £250 - £300 and an 'all polished BLACK granite' would knock us back between £475 and £500.

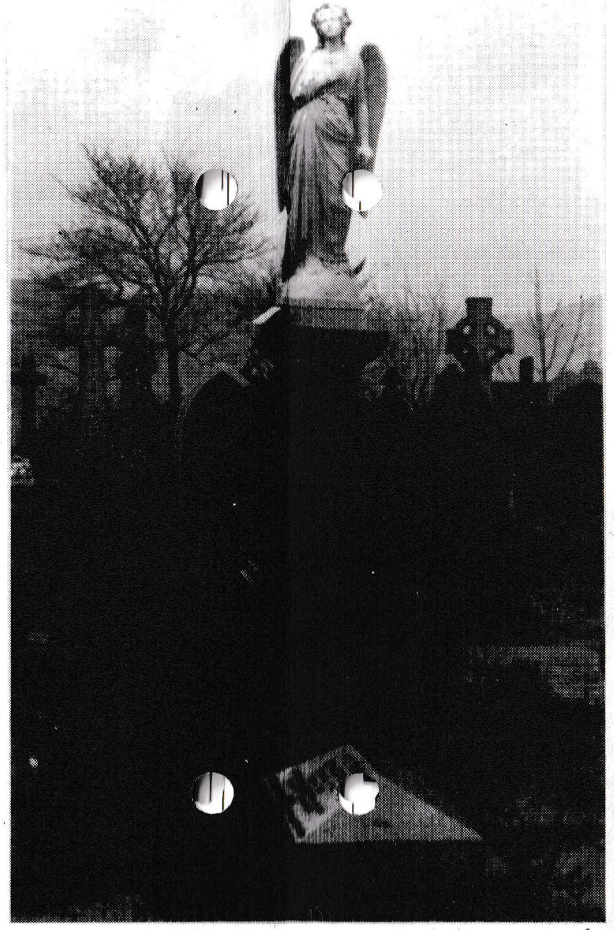
JAMES HANSON & SON
MONUMENTAL MASONS
MEMORIALS IN MARBLE AND GRANITE
INSCRIPTIONS RENOVATIONS



Slateacre Road
Gee Cross, Hyde
Tel. [redacted]

We said we'd let them know and rung up HANSONS of SLATEACRE RD. GEE CROSS, HYDE.
Their "ITALIAN MARBLE MEMORIAL" sounded like a 30ft. statue of MUSSOLLINI but turned out to be one of the cheaper headstones around at just £189. But, they warned us, if we wanted to add a few inches to make it the maximum height the council allows for headstones in DUKINFIELD CEMETARY it would cost us £220.

DEATH IS A TABOO SUBJECT MOST OF US DON'T EVEN LIKE TO TALK ABOUT. BUT WE ALL DIE. A SIMPLE FACT THAT MAKES UNDERTAKING A MULTI-BILLION POUND WORLD-WIDE BUSINESS.
THIS ISSUE EYE INVESTIGATES THE LOCAL MEN AND WOMEN WHO MAKE A LIVING OUT OF DYING AND ASKS THE KIND OF QUESTIONS PEOPLE TEND TO SHY AWAY FROM WHEN FACED WITH A DEATH IN THEIR OWN FAMILY.....



THE PRICE COMMISSION CONDUCTED A NATIONAL SURVEY OF WHY PEOPLE GO TO PARTICULAR UNDERTAKERS. THIS WAS THEIR RESULT.....

"My family have always used him" 36%

A funeral costs over £300..

Many old people still spend their last hours worrying whether they will be able to afford a decent funeral, which now costs anything from £300.
And the Government Death Grant is derisory.....

As we move well into the 1980's the possibility of a 'paupers funeral'looms larger now for many old people than it has for years.
Funeral costs have rocketted.
Pensions have not kept pace with inflation.
The insurance policies held by old people now often barely cover the cost of a coffin.
So when an old person dies the burden falls on the family. Who may be out of work, or on short time. Yet the Government DEATH GRANT is still only £30 and has not been increased since 1967.
And when a proposal to increase the grant to £45 was debated in PARLIAMENT last MARCH a Tory majority of 54 threw it out.
When the DEATH GRANT was introduced just after the last war the sum of money available then was just about enough to provide a decent burial. Now it wouldn't cover the cost of a fancy wreath.
There is no proper

Who pr...

What kind of people ARE undert... much money do they make? We ... company accounts of three loca... to help answer those questions

There aren't many people leaving school these days with their heart set on being a funeral director. There never were.
Undertaking tends to run in the family.
The children of funeral directors get used to the idea of death, and grow up seeing corpses not as something horrific but simply something upon which a job of work has to be done.

HIGG... RD. jewe... dry... FORD... RD. groc... dire... SIMM... by t... chip... work... THE... made... prof...

NAFD MEMBERS **THE**
GLOSSOP CARRIA...
LIMITED
FUNERAL DIREC...
HOWARD STREET, G...
PHONE GLOSSO...

So when they get old enough they join the family firm without qualm. Two out of our three chosen funeral directors were small family businesses.
H. REVELL AND SONS LTD. who operate from 96 STAMFORD ST. STALYBRIDGE is owned and run by NORMAN and ANNIE REVELL. ANNIE describes herself as a 'clerk and driver' as well as company director.
The firm was set up in

peop... bulk... the ... al f... compa... even... feel... infla... that... eral... to be... diff... ROBIN... LTD. ... MARKE... branc... in BI...

The cost?

Death may be the ultimate mystery. But for the 26 Tameside Undertakers who pay to advertise their addresses and telephone numbers in the yellow pages and take out big weekly ads in the Reporter right next to the obituaries, its just another business.....

Many of TAMESIDE's undertakers have formed themselves into limited companies.
They have shareholders and directors.
They have special arrangements with hospitals and the police.
They keep profit and loss accounts and compete with each other for custom.
It's not the NICEST business in the world.
But there's one advantage it has that makes ordinary businessmen envious.
People who engage the services of an undertaker dont shop around. (see survey elsewhere on this page).
And they don't haggle much over prices.
Its understandable.
You don't feel like arguing about money in the middle of grief.
But many people who DONT argue and don't shop around have had to pinch, scrape and save for years in order to afford any kind of "decent" funeral.
And the fact is an undertaker is out for a profit just as much as the next businessman.
So if people don't shop around the price of funerals stays high and so does the profit for undertakers.

We decided to do some shopping around.

We asked four prominent local undertakers for a quote on a fairly ordinary funeral.
We told them we wanted a body collecting from somewhere in Ashton and taken to their Chapel of Rest. We wanted the usual 'attention to the deceased' and then a burial in a new grave at DUKINFIELD cemetary.

We wanted the mourners collected from home and taken behind the hearse in a single limousine.
We wanted bearers and a vicar to officiate at a simple service in the DUKINFIELD cemetary chapel.

KENWORTHYS of 170 OLD ST ASHTON quoted us £350 but that included a meal.
When we said we didn't have much money they offered to do us a £250 funeral which would have meant cremation instead of a burial, no meal and no limousine.
We then took our custom along to ROBINSONS who are based at 230 MARKET ST. HYDE.
Their man was very helpful. The full scale funeral would cost £300. But when we quibbled he suggested that we 'come and talk about it' because he was 'prepared to do it for less.'

BENJAMIN ARMITAGE (HYDE) LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
CREMATIONS ARRANGED
[redacted] STOCKPORT ROAD
GEE CROSS, HYDE
Tel. [redacted]
CHAPEL OF REST
DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE

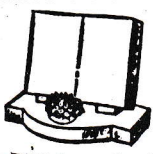
Next stop was BENJAMIN ARMITAGE (HYDE) LTD. who have a shop at GEE CROSS.Mr. ARMITAGES quote was the cheapest at £250 and undercut the CO OPERATIVE FUNERAL SERVICE in ASHTON by £55.
When we rang the CO-OP the £310 quote banished forever the myth of inexpensiveness which sends lots of old working class people straight there when they have to arrange a funeral.

THE DEATH

NEXT STOP WAS A STONE MASONS.....

There are five Monumental Masons listed for TAMESIDE in the yellow pages.
We rung two, and found them refreshingly free of fake sympathy.
HODCROFTS of ASTLEY ST. DUKINFIELD said they could 'do'us a small marble 'headstone'for £200 and throw in an inscription free.
A 'small granite' came a bit more expensive at £250 - £300 and an 'all polished BLACK granite' would knock us back between £475 and £500.

JAMES HANSON & SON
MONUMENTAL MASONS
MEMORIALS IN MARBLE AND GRANITE
INSCRIPTIONS RENOVATIONS



[redacted] Slateacre Road
Gee Cross, Hyde
Tel. [redacted]

We said we'd let them know and rung up HANSONS of SLATEACRE RD. GEE CROSS, HYDE.
Their "ITALIAN MARBLE MEMORIAL" sounded like a 30ft. statue of MUSSOLLINI but turned out to be one of the cheaper headstones around at just £189. But, they warned us, if we wanted to add a few inches to make it the maximum height the council allows for headstones in DUKINFIELD CEMETARY it would cost us £220.
Totting everything up we found that the minimum cost of a decent funeral after shopping around for the most competitive prices still came to about £450, and if we had been silly enough not to ask about prices we could have ended up with a bill edging its way up to £600.
So, if you really want to go in style you'd better make sure that someone is prepared to fork out about £1,000 for you. □

DEATH IS A TABOO SUBJ
LIKE TO TALK ABOUT.
FACT THAT MAKES UNDER
WORLD-WIDE BUSINESS.
THIS ISSUE EYE INVEST
WHO MAKE A LIVING OUT
OF QUESTIONS PEOPLE
FACED WITH A DEATH IN

THE PRICE COMMISSION
OF WHY PEOPLE GO TO P
THIS WAS THEIR RESULT

"My family have alw
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I BUSINESS

MOST OF US DON'T EVEN
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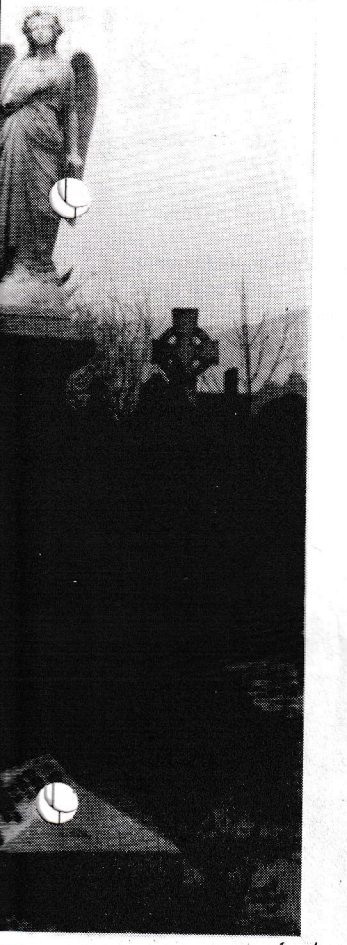

UCTED A NATIONAL SURVEY
CULAR UNDERTAKERS.
...

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ses them''	33%
	13%
	22%
ea''	10%
-op''	4%
	2%

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ir undertaker.
takers who overcharge,

to more than 100%
more than one reason).

A funeral costs over £300..

Many old people still spend their last hours worrying whether they will be able to afford a decent funeral, which now costs anything from £300.
And the Government Death Grant is derisory.....

As we move well into the 1980's the possibility of a 'paupers funeral' looms larger now for many old people than it has for years.
Funeral costs have rocketted.
Pensions have not kept pace with inflation.
The insurance policies held by old people now often barely cover the cost of a coffin.
So when an old person dies the burden falls on the family. Who may be out of work, or on short time. Yet the Government DEATH GRANT is still only £30 and has not been increased since 1967.
And when a proposal to increase the grant to £45 was debated in PARLIAMENT last MARCH a Tory majority of 54 threw it out.
When the DEATH GRANT was introduced just after the last war the sum of money available then was just about enough to provide a decent burial. Now it wouldn't cover the cost of a fancy wreath.
There is no proper state burial service.
So undertakers control the market and many old people are being priced out of a decent funeral.□

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS TO CLAIM DEATH GRANTS? RING AGE CONCERN TAMESIDE AT 308 3697

Who profits

What kind of people ARE undertakers? And how much money do they make? We looked at the company accounts of three local funeral directors to help answer those questions.....

There aren't many people leaving school these days with their heart set on being a funeral director. There never were.
Undertaking tends to run in the family.
The children of funeral directors get used to the idea of death, and grow up seeing corpses not as something horrific but simply something upon which a job of work has to be done.

NAFD MEMBERS
THE
DAY & NIGHT SERVICE
GLOSSOP CARRIAGE Co.
LIMITED
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
HOWARD STREET, GLOSSOP
PHONE GLOSSOP [redacted]

So when they get old enough they join the family firm without qualm. Two out of our three chosen funeral directors were small family businesses.
H. REVELL AND SONS LTD. who operate from 96 STAMFORD ST. STALYBRIDGE is owned and run by NORMAN and ANNIE REVELL. ANNIE describes herself as a 'clerk and driver' as well as company director.
The firm was set up in 1936 by NORMANs dad, HARRY REVELL.

In 1979 NORMAN and ANNIE paid themselves £9,288 out of a total turnover of £54,255.
Assuming that most of that was made from undertaking NORMAN and ANNIE must have buried at least 200 people that year.

THE GLOSSOP CARRIAGE CO. LTD. is a bit different. Its run by a consortium of local GLOSSOP business men ranging from PETER HIGGINBOTTOM of 17 NORTH RD. GLOSSOP who runs a jewellers shop and a laundry to FRANCIS ALAN BERESFORD of 207 BROADBOTTOM RD. MOTTRAM who owns a grocers shop. Fellow director PETER HIGTON of SIMMONDLEY is a joiner by trade who obviously chips in with the coffin work.
THE GLOSSOP CARRIAGE CO. made a £20,000 pre-tax profit out of burying people in1979. But the bulk of this came from the sale of an old funeral float. In fact their company report shows that even funeral directors are feeling the effects of inflation, complaining that renewal of the funeral fleet will 'prove to be increasingly difficult in the future'
ROBINSONS FUNERAL SERVICE LTD. have a shop at 230 MARKET ST. HYDE and a branch called E.JORDANs in BREDBURY.
The directors are another husband and wife team, CHARLES and DORIS ROBB who live at THE HARE & HOUNDS COTTAGE, on WERNETH LOWE. ROBINSONS FUNERAL SERVICES has undergone several metamorphoses in the last 20 years. It was originally owned by JOSEPH ROBINSON who was bought out in 1965 by ERIC and NORA JORDAN.
CHARLES and DORIS moved in sometime in the mid-seventies.□

A SUCCESSFUL TAKEOVER BID

WHEN FIVE WELDERS WERE SACKED AT BENNETT BROS. ASHTON THE WORK FORCE TOOK OVER THE FACTORY. IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS THE WELDERS WERE RE - INSTATED. EYE ASKED SHOP STEWARDS HOW IT WAS DONE.

The last straw came on Tuesday morning when 5 welders refused to do a job on safety grounds. Director ADRIAN BENNETT sacked them on the spot. In the words of a BENNETT BROS, shop steward 'Management had pulled that many stunts, the lads had had enough'.

On the Wednesday the firm broke a written pay agreement and were given until 9 am Thurs. to reinstate the sacked men. By Thurs. lunchtime the workforce of 45 had begun their occupation of the factory with foreman and management locked out. Two weeks later everyone was back at work, including the welders.

SURPRISE

Foremen and management were taken completely by surprise when the shop-floor was occupied, but stewards had seen the shoddy treatment given to workers at the sister company BENNETT- DEAN DESIGN LTD, where half an hours notice was given and no redundancy payments made. So, the stewards decided on the tactic of occupation (rather than a strike) some time ago- and for once no one had told owner STANLEY BENNETT what was going on.

For their part, shop stewards were to be surprised as well: at the way the workforce was knitted together by the sackings. Everyone joined in the occupation. Straightaway a brew was going, four TV's and games were brought in, a shift system was drawn up: 8am-4pm; 4pm - 11pm; 11pm - 8am.

They split into four shifts, so there was always one shift having a 24 hour break. The Technical College's Training Officer was brought in to keep apprentices on schedule with their work, and they continued going to day release.

CONTACT

To keep everyone in touch there was a log book kept whilst anyone entering or leaving the factory had to be booked down. That way it was possible to always know how many were inside in case of fire or any emergency.

Relations with the local press were favourable - mainly because management were too confused to speak to reporters. One depressing incident however, was when GRANADA REPORTS said they would not come down to a strike of less than 100 people.

Some good still came out of this because the occupiers made links with EEPTU Electricians and NUJ Reporters instead. If the dispute had continued, the REPORTS team would have faced increased pressure from within.

SOLID

Most people in work will have experienced arguements and personal disagreements and the BENNETT BROS. shop floor is no exception. But during the occupation people got on far better and problems were dealt with in a much fairer manner. One time, someone missed a shift, and then turned in later, having obviously been boozing. He was disciplined and fined - but accepted it as fair. Also, the occupation started on a pay day - yet the Stewards had no problems organising the paying of the wages themselves.

MONEY

Working from a list of stewards in local firms provided by their Union BENNETT's workers sought collections and donations for their occupation. BRITISH VITA responded quickly with about £20, and many others contributed. The Ashton Branch of the Boilermakers Union came up with £100. A bank account was opened and nothing was paid out until everyone was back in work, when it was divided equally amongst the workforce. The cash was kept salted away for as long as possible as no one could have predicted the quick victory.

Then there was MR.EDWARDS at Ashton Social Security office, trying to put in to effect the new Social Security Act. When the occupiers put in claims for their families, every difficulty was put in their way - and in the end those who got any 'help' at all found it was to be in the form of a 'loan'

Stewards were refused permission to take all the relevant forms to the occupation - instead everyone had to queue for an appointment at the office. This contrasted sharply with the sight of DHSS officers going to steel works during the steel strike.□

BENNETT STEWARDS IN FACTORY OCCUPATION.

BENNETT BROTHERS LIMITED

Set up just after the war in 1947 BENNETT BROS LTD. is a small engineering firm. The Directors are STANLEY BENNETT, ADRIAN BENNETT, IRIS BENNETT and works manager RONALD BESWICK and PETER ASHTON.

Things went well until about 1975 when Chairman STAN paid himself a mere £23,787 and the Directors as a whole took £51,000. But by Sept. 1977 things were already winding down A trading loss of £211 was recorded on a turnover of £766,000 and STAN pulled in the proverbial belt to a slim £12,897. Although its against the law they've somehow forgotten to send in their official accounts since then. No wonder then that the workforce now find themselves on one day a week, and the firm claims its temporary short time working subsidy off the Government.

ADRIAN BENNETT, whose confrontation management lead to the occupation, was a Director of the now defunct wallpaper machine company BENNETT DEAN DESIGNS LTD. with one PETER WRAITH of Wilmslow.

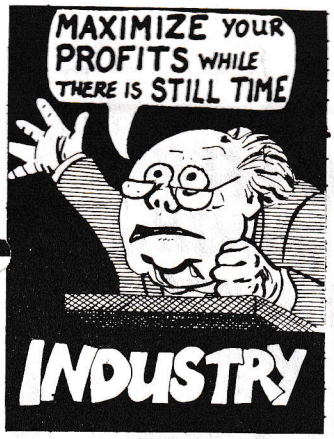
He no longer officially works at BENNETT BROS, but has apparently set up RICHMOND PLATING, no doubt putting his week-in-hand to good use. □

CLLR. JIMMY EASON is having trouble deciding which principle he wants to stick to. On the one hand CIVIC PRIDE says that he should vote against moves to sell off our old Town Halls, when all the council's men and women finally move into the new public lavatory next to Ashton Town Hall. On the other hand his position as LABOUR WHIP says he should toe the Labour line, as the principle of selling off council property has already been agreed upon, and he -as WHIP- is meant to organise the Councillors voting.
Bearing in mind that JIMMY owns the council house he lives in, EYE confidently predicts that JIMMY the CIVIC will have no difficulty dreaming up excuses to vote against JIMMY the WHIP.

Socialist policies and Manpower cuts don't mix. Or so it would seem from the current council "policy" on the filling of vacancies.
On the one hand cleaning and caretaking hours are being cut back severely. At Hattersley Community Centre they have kept vacant one caretaking post for some months. The result has been MORE expenditure because the existing caretaker has been doing his own job plus up to 40 hours overtime too !
On the other hand, two Chief Officers have recently left - FRED HANKES from Estates and BRYDEN from Housing - and both posts are to be filled straightaway. The new revamped Director of Housing post goes with a salary of at least £17,200.

Yet another plan to put up a multi-storey car park next to the council's new office block in Ashton centre has been given the go-ahead by Labour councillors. But the financial implications of this decision are bound to cause controversy.
The idea is to sell the Head lease on the shopping area beneath the office block and use the proceeds on building the car park.
No supermarket can be without a car park these days, so the lease will be worthless without the promise of a park.
But spending the lease cash would leave the council no richer - so the plan is to include even more new shops beneath the proposed car park.
Rent from the new shops say councillors, will make the deal worthwhile.
Not all Labour councillors are in favour and with talk of rates going up at lease 40% and rents £5 per week in April the debate on council spending promises plenty of fireworks to come.

BILL WILKINSON- Labour Councillor for St. Michael's Ashton - has been keeping everyone entertained recently. Loyal Labour activists were cut to the quick by one of BILL's more choice remarks: he referred to the Tameside district Labour party as an "International Communist Conspiracy".



IMI RANGE

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MEN AT IMI RANGE IN STALYBRIDGE must have a hot-line to the REPORTER because rarely a week goes by without a mention of this multi - million pound engineering company in that papers lick-spittle business page. But, we've been collecting the clippings for years and never once been told how much profit the company makes, who owns it and what the directors get.
So we thought we'd find out.
The big boss is one ROY AMOS. His Managing Director is PETER CRAVEN ROBERTS who lives at "LITTLE ASTON PARK" Streetly, in Staffs.
Local Directors include JOHN DRIVER of 6 BOWLACRE RD., HYDE and LESLIE GRAHAM SPIBY of LABURNUM AV. STALYBRIDGE
Between them the IMI Board pay themselves £80,000 in Directors salaries, which amounted to around £12,000 each in 1978 (the last available figures).
The company as a whole made a net profit of £691,515 all of which went in one massive payout to shareholders.
At the same time as they were paying themselves this £691,515 the Directors and shareholders were taking £8,500 of public money off the Government in regional development grants.

ICL

Tricky negotiations are in hand between the Union EEPTU and management at ICL's Snipe Factory in Ashton following attempts by cost-cutting managers to de-skill jobs. Over 70 skilled workers have been directed to work on the new S3 computer for a semi-skilled wage- that would leave them £15 per week worse off.
The S3 is being transferred to Snipe following the closure and large scale redundancies at ICL's Winsford factory in Cheshire.
ICL have taken great care to make sure the S3's wage bill is as low as possible. The work needed to build it has deliberately been made semi-skilled. But this meant the firm had to offer voluntary redundancy to the people whose jobs they wished to downgrade.
In a telling example of 1981 Thatcher-think they expected skilled workers to accept a job at any price.
They got quite a shock. 60 of the skilled men put in for a quotation on how much their redundancy pay would be whilst 32 of them gave a definite date for when they wanted to leave.
Management had expected single figures and have now said only 10 can go.
All eyes in the factory are now on the negotiations.
The Schemer behind this move appears to be JAY MOORE Director of ICL's North West operations and now veteran of two massive closures - first 900 jobs at Park Road, Dukinfield in Oct.'79 and 1,200 jobs at Winsford a year later.
It is worth remembering that he does not always get his own way.
8 women who used to work for ICL at Park Rd. have just won a back-dated equal pay claim.

SLD PUMPS

SLD PUMPS have a pump hire depot in WESTBURY ST. HYDE.
The HANSON TRUST is SLD's parent company and is under the Chairmanship of SIR JAMES (Jimmy to his friends!) HANSON.
Apart from scratching a pleasant living from the dividends on his one million plus shares in the TRUST, SIR JAMES took a cool £66,000 salary for his services last year
SLD workers ought to ask him round to pump a little 'life' into their salaries.

friend
A Counselling and Befriending Organisation for Homosexuals
236 6283

Stop the Doomsday

Party

Organised by Hyde against the Missiles

AT THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL, MEADOW LANE, HAUGHTON GREEN, DENTON, MANCHESTER.
On Friday 13th February 1981 from 7.30p.m. to 11.00p.m.
ENTERTAINMENT SURPRISE ARTISTES HOT POT SUPPER
TICKET - £1.50.
Tickets available from Margaret Chadwick, Old Rectory Hotel. Tel: 336 7516 and HYDE AGAINST THE MISSILES 7 New Street, Broadbottom. Tel: Mottram 64723.

STRICTLY TICKETS ONLY!

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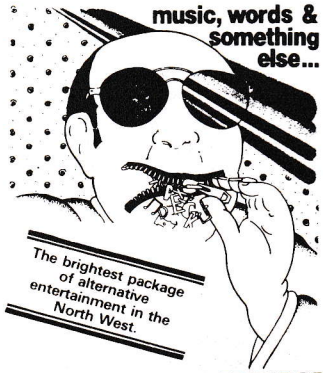


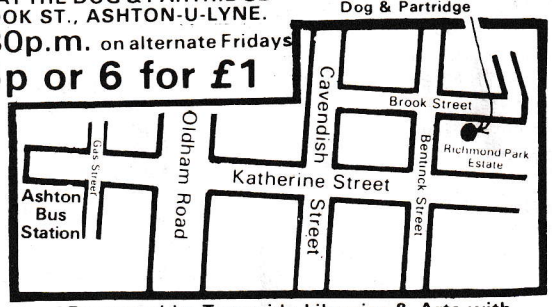
Friday 30 Jan.

KIT WRIGHT - tallest poet in Britain will make another lively appearance featuring poems, wit and comment. Publications include Rabbiting On (1978). (This is a North West Arts circuit event)

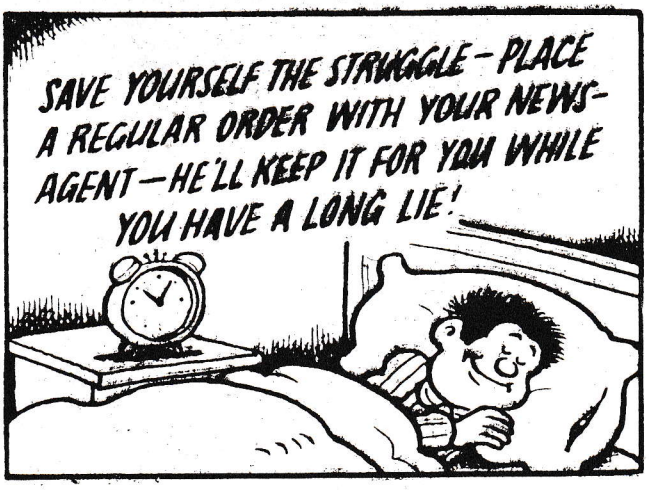
Friday 13 Feb.

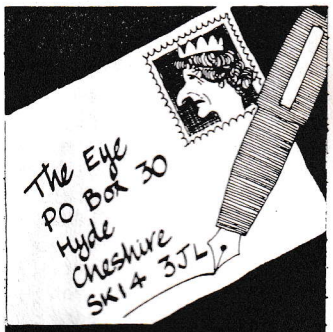
NICK TOCZEK - Freelance writer for New Musical Express, just releasing his second single with the band Ulterior Motives. NICK will present a package of poems, prose and humour. His publications include God Shave the Queen (1976) and Rock'n Roll Terrorism (1980).

ALL AT THE DOG & PARTRIDGE BROOK ST., ASHTON-U-LYNE.
8.30p.m. on alternate Fridays
25p or 6 for £1



Promoted by Tameside Libraries & Arts with assistance from North West Arts and the National Poetry Secretariat.





LETTERS

Gay rights

DEAR EYE,

The Labour Campaign for Gay Rights views with alarm the vast increase in police arrests in public toilets around the Greater Manchester area. Recent events in Stockport where the number of arrests for "gross indecency" (that is, having sex in a public place) have increased from 12 last year to over 150 already this year, and the arrest of GEORGE MORTON MP in Manchester recently, merely highlighted a trend which has become apparent ever since James Anderton became Chief Constable. The trend is towards using ever greater amounts of police time and resources to spying on toilets; setting up traps in them and even resorting to using police to actively seduce men in toilets in order to arrest them. This is a 'victimless' offence since those participating were willing and consenting partners. Meanwhile, complaints from women in many areas of Grtr.Manchester about kerb crawlers continue to be largely disregarded by the police.

In Manchester, the third biggest city in the country; apart from the Manchester Gay Centre, there are three gay pubs and three gay clubs. These represent the sole social meeting places which gay men have in the area. How would the general public feel if three loud smokey clubs were the only places in which men and women could meet and mix socially together? Taking this into account it is perhaps less surprising that homosexual men sometimes seek to meet one another in public places.

We intend to immediately launch a campaign against police harassment of gay people. The first steps will be:

1. To demand an end to police surveillance and entrapment in public toilets so that the police would act on complaints from the general public only.
2. That any men arrested in toilets as a result of a complaint be referred to Manchester Gay Information Centre to ensure that they are aware of the alternative meeting places which exist. Charging people for "gross indecency" and "persistent importuning" helps nobody and destroys lives.
3. To request an urgent meeting with the GMC Police Committee and with the leader and opposition party leaders of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to discuss the whole question of police priorities, given the increase in violent crime, car thefts and other acts which cause serious problems to the public. In the light of this we consider employing police to linger around public toilets should have very low priority indeed.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SHIERS
DAVID MOTTRAM
Manchester Labour Campaign for Gay Rights,
c/o Manchester Gay Centre,
61a Bloom St.,
Manchester 1.□

Ecology

DEAR EYE,

Tameside members of the Ecology Party are calling a Public Meeting on "Unemployment and Ecology". It is being held on 27th January 1981 at 8pm in the Albion Hotel, Penny Meadow, Ashton.

The Ecology Party has a very different view on unemployment and the economy than other political parties. ECO calls for a substantial zero growth economy, while for other parties umlimited economic growth is their aim, which ECO believes is not sustainable and would lead to an even greater recession than we are in now.

If the public meeting is successful, Tameside ECO members will probably nominate a candidate to contest one of the Tameside Wards at May's County Council Elections and a formal branch will be developed.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Sykes,
14 Crown Hill,
Micklehurst,
Mossley OL5 9NY
Tel : Mossley 2173□

The first of a regular series on YOUR RIGHTS, at home, in the street, on the dole, at work. Ideas for topics we should cover are welcome. This month, an outline of recent Social Security and Unemployment Benefit changes.

Major changes in the Social Security system made last November have hammered the unemployed, pensioners, the sick, disabled people and low income families - leaving about 1½ million people worse off - here is how :-

*Sickness, unemployment, maternity and invalidity benefits have been reduced by 10%, taking inflation into account.
*Pensions and other long term benefits are now only raised with the price index instead of earnings
*Claimants with over £2,000 savings will get nothing, even if the savings include redundancy payments.
*School leavers get nothing during the holiday period after they leave.
*Special payments to help with heating bills and clothing are more difficult to get.
*Discretionary powers were cut and claimants who do not fit the rules are refused benefit.
*Earnings related payments are cut and will be stopped altogether in 1982. This means nearly all unemployed people now need to claim supplementary benefit.
*Sick pay is not paid for the first four days of illness (unless part of a longer peiod of illness)
*Despite impressions given in the media, striking workers have never received benefit-only their families. Now, these families will get £12 per week less, even if they aren't getting strike pay.
*All other income, including tax rebates will be taken off the benefit.□

STOP PRESS

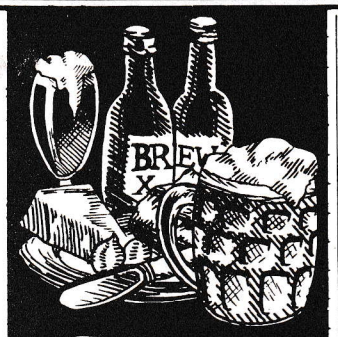
Disappearing Stalybridge businessman PETER REXSTRAW was apparently visiting friends over Xmas and New Year!

Regular EYE readers will recall that PETER did a bunk after selling off his insurance business, STALEY INSURANCE BROKERS to WALTER HENSHAWS for £30,000. And that he had, on the books, a number of clients who had paid him their insurance premiums without appearing to get any insurance in return.

PETER didn't pop into the EYE office to tell us the full story.....□

Got a story to tell? Tell it to EYE! The paper that LISTENS! TEL:455 3724 or 366 0382 after 6pm.

REVIEW



PUBS

Half Way House

Situated on the corner of Edge Lane and Ashton New Rd., Droylsden is a massive building called the Half Way House Hotel.
In an area dominated by the big breweries a HOLTS pub is a drinkingpersons paradise in an expensive sea of watery beer.
The bitter, although pressurised is fairly cheap at 41p a pint in the room, cheaper in the vault.
Beer with a unique taste bitter, malty, the taste of a strong brew is enjoyable in this pub with its friendly knees-up atmosphere.
There is plenty of space and a room on its own with three pool tables and best of all, no bang, ping, crash of invaders from space.
If you can drag yourself away from the Half Way and negotiate its revolving doors (tricky after 4 or 5 pints) try the next pub along Edge Lane.

The Gardeners

The Gardeners, a Wilsons pub selling beer at 44p. a pint, slightly sweet and thin after Holts best but still a good pint of Wilsons.
The Gardeners is not a new pub but has been extended giving the impression of a TARDIS when you get in! The decor is slightly pretentious with green deep buttoned seating and a lot of brass.
There is, though, live organ music at weekends with an organist who will play any requests, unfortunately no juke box but good piped music.
The pub grub served between 12 and 1.45 is ample and cheapish and the coffee very palatable at 22p a cup.
Both these pubs are well worth a visit not just in passing but for a good night or dinner-time out.

WRETCH

Hallo Readers!

That beatific builder ROLAND BARDSLEY is having TERRIBLE problems keeping managers at his Droylsden Nite-spot CARRIAGES.
He lost his first manager of the year THOMAS REID after that awful fracas I told you about last Autumn. The one where dear, delightful ROLAND was involved in a nasty beer throwing incident.
Now VIC BUCKLEY the man ROLAND brought in from the WHITEGATE TAVERN STEAK HOUSE in OLD TRAFFORD to replace THOMAS has just left.

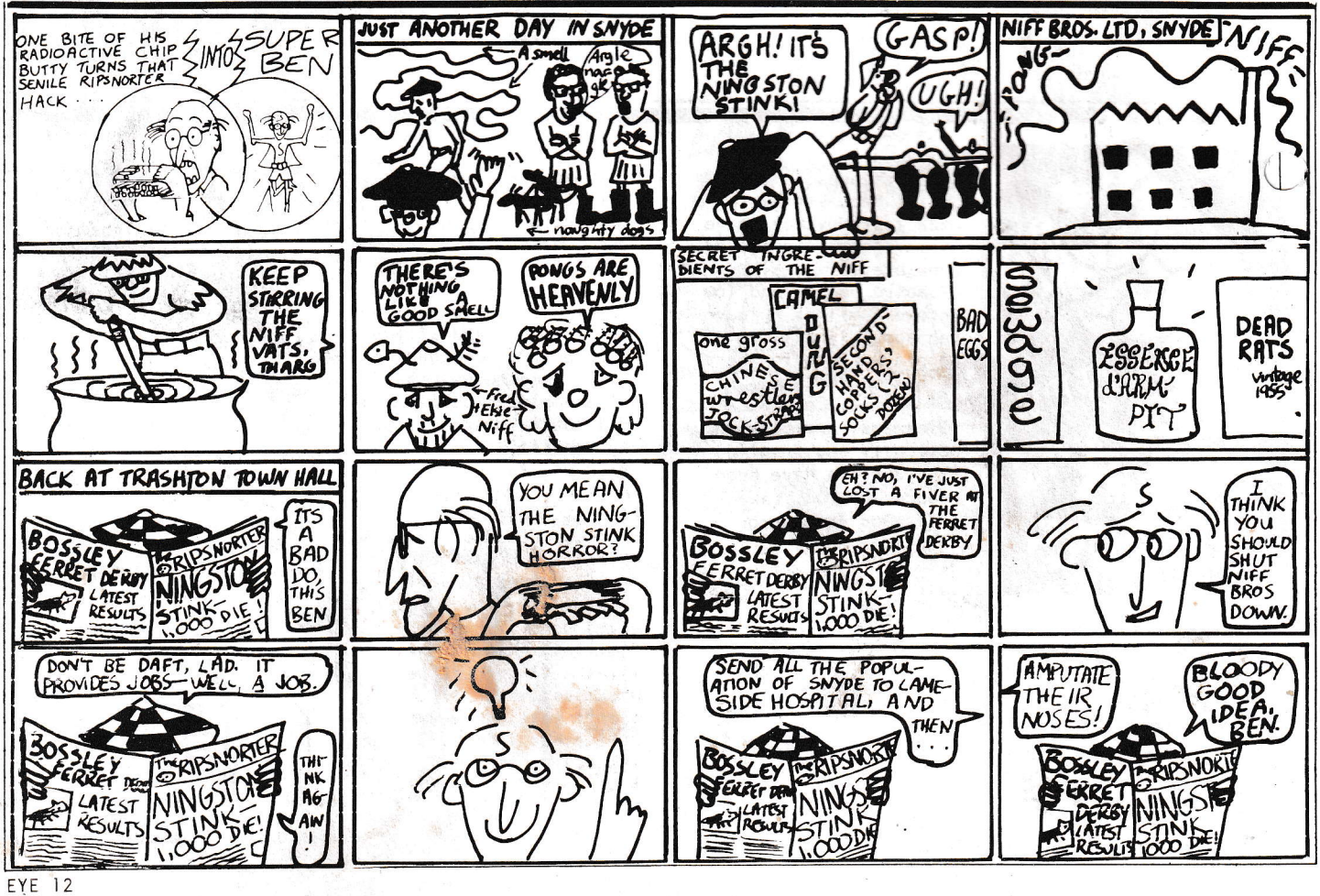
He's gone to manage a pub in Rochdale.
Perhaps its all for the best.

I hear that the CARRIAGES staff didn't like Mr. BUCKLEY and it wont be long, surely, before ROLAND finishes grooming his son for the job.
These things are best kept in the family I think.

Wretch

Uncle Ben

THIS MONTH BEN SMELLS A RAT, SO CHOPS IT OFF!


ONE BITE OF HIS RADIOACTIVE CHIP BUTTY TURNS THAT SENILE RIPSNORTER HACK . . .
SUPER BEN
JUST ANOTHER DAY IN SNYDE
A smell
Argle mac gk
naughty dogs
ARGH! IT'S THE NINGSTON STINK!
GASP!
UGH!
NIFF BROS. LTD, SNYDE
NIFF
PONGS
KEEP STIRRING THE NIFF VATS, THARG
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SMELL
PONGS ARE HEAVENLY
Fred Ethel Niff
SECRET INGREDIENTS OF THE NIFF
CAMEL DUNG
one gross CHINESE wrestlers JOCK-STRAPS
SECOND-HAND COPPER'S SOCKS ROTTEN
BAD EGGS
MANURE
ESSENCE D'ARM-PIT
DEAD RATS vintage 1985
BACK AT TRASHTON TOWN HALL
BOSSLEY FERRET DERBY LATEST RESULTS
RIPSNORTER NINGSTON STINK-1,000 DIE!
IT'S A BAD DO, THIS BEN
YOU MEAN THE NINGSTON STINK HORROR?
EH? NO, I'VE JUST LOST A FIVER AT THE FERRET DERBY
I THINK YOU SHOULD SHUT NIFF BROS DOWN.
DON'T BE DAFT, LAD. IT PROVIDES JOBS—WELL, A JOB.
THINK AGAIN!
SEND ALL THE POPULATION OF SNYDE TO CAMESIDE HOSPITAL, AND THEN . . .
AMPUTATE THEIR NOSES!
BLOODY GOOD IDEA, BEN.